

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are cancelled.

Claims 30-42 are pending.

Claims 30-42 are rejected.

The office action dated Sept. 29, 2008 indicates that claims 30-36 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Zhao et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,973,384. The office action also indicates that claims 33-34 and 37-40 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of others.

The method of new claim 30 is concerned with information about a specified change at a specified geographical location over a specified period of time. At least one remote data sensing source is used to capture correlated images of the specified location during the specified geographical location over the specified time period, and an algorithm is used to extract the information.

Claim 30 has been amended to clarify the feature "accessing correlated, real-time images." Amended claim 30 recites that images are accessed from remote image capture sources that are airborne or space-based (support is provided in paragraph 18). Amended claim 30 also recites that the correlated images have been processed to be spatially matched and spectrally corrected (support is provided in paragraph 38 and USSN 10/721,212, which is incorporated by reference).

The method of claim 30 places complex analysis of geographical locations at the fingertips of customers who can access a web site. The analysis is open-ended with respect to the geographic location, the specified time period, and the type of information desired. This flexibility is made possible in part by the type of image capture sources (e.g., multiple satellites), the availability of different capture sources, and the ability to spatially match and spectrally correct the captured images. Real-time images of many different locations, at many different resolutions, over desired time

lengths and update frequencies can be accessed. Appropriate information-extraction algorithms can be accessed and used.

Zhao does not teach or suggest such flexible analysis for customers. Zhao describes a system for providing traffic conditions to users/drivers that are subscribers of a traffic advisory service (col. 2, lines 13+). Traffic information is gathered from road sensors, images from traffic cameras, reporters, etc. (col. 7, lines 43+). A database operator can monitor the images and make assessments about drivability of a road, traffic conditions at a given time, etc. The assessments and gathered information can be entered into a database according to geographic regions (col. 7, lines 21+). Subscribers can request information in the database (col. 8, lines 31+). For example, subscribers can set up their service to provide instant text messaging during the range of times that the driver is commuting to work (col. 8, lines 44+).

Zhao's system does not utilize images that are captured by sources that are airborne or space-based. Images are captured by traffic cameras. The office action cites column 19, lines 35-37 of Zhao and argues (in the rejection of claim 35) that images are requested by one or more satellites. However, Zhao does not support the argument, since it clearly indicates that the satellites are used for telephone communications (see lines 39-45).

Zhao does not teach or suggest images that are processed to be spatially matched and spectrally corrected. As the office action argues, Zhao's captured images are inherently correlated, so there is no need to process them to be spatially matched and spectrally corrected.

Zhao does not appear to teach or suggest the use an algorithm to assess road drivability, traffic conditions, etc. Zhao states that a database operator performs the assessment.

Zhao's system is limited to traffic analysis. It does not teach or suggest the flexibility to provide different types of analysis.

The differences between Zhao and claim 30 are not taught or suggested by the other documents made of record. Therefore, claim 30 and its dependent claims 31-40 (previously presented) and 45-46 (new) should be allowed over the documents made of record.

Amendments have also been made to base claims 41 and 42. Amended base claims 41-42 and their dependent claims 43-44 (new) should be allowed for the same reasons.

The Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss any remaining issues prior to mailing another office action.

Respectfully submitted,
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